

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the Jeffrey Dahmer-like murder trial of an abortionist named Kermit Gosnell is replete with shocking testimony of beheadings, unfathomable abuse, spinal cord snippings, death, and body parts in jars.

But how different, really, is Gosnell's "house of horrors" from the abortions that occur in clinics around the country every single day? Not much. Not much at all.

Mr. Speaker, will Americans ever be told the horrifying details as to how and how often abortionists dismember, decapitate, and chemically poison innocent babies?

Last week, reporter Timothy Carney asked participants in a call hosted by the pro-abortion group RH Reality Check:

What is the distinction between what Gosnell did and what a late-term abortionist like Leroy Carhart does?

Professor Tracy Weitz responded:

When a procedure that usually involves collapsing the skull is done, it is usually done when the fetus is still in the uterus, not when the fetus has been delivered.

That's it? It's just a matter of where, in the womb or not, that this violence against children is construed to be okay?

Where is the outrage over 55 million children victims who have been killed by abortion, and where is the appalling lack of compassion?

Why the empathy deficit for the victims, women and children, especially by our President, President Barack Obama?

Women and children deserve better.

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

(Mr. HUELSKAMP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, there's been a lot of talk in recent months about a "war on women," but those using the term to attack pro-life supporters should look a little closer to home for the real war on women.

Abortion proponents would like us to believe that the atrocities being discussed at the murder trial of Philadelphia abortion provider Gosnell are neither standard nor acceptable practice in the abortion industry. But evidence indicates otherwise.

The so-called Aid For Women abortion clinic in Kansas City has also been the subject of several investigations into the care provided to women and the cleanliness of the facility with reports very similar to those coming out of the Gosnell trial.

And with abortion providers all up and down the east coast referring patients to Gosnell's clinic, I find it hard to believe that no one knew of the conditions, the wretched conditions at this clinic. That is where the real war on

women and war on children is occurring.

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, sometimes it's just so bad that we don't even want to look at it. Sometimes it's just so awful we want to turn our face away. But we can't.

Shayquana Abrams was a 17-year-old when she went to see a doctor named Gosnell. He performed an abortion on her. Afterwards, she was diagnosed with a grapefruit-sized abscess and a clot near her heart. It took her 2 years to recover. She was just a child, Mr. Speaker.

This Dr. Gosnell waged his own private war on women. And for what? For profit.

Now, thankfully, he's on trial; and, thankfully, more and more people are learning about this.

Maybe, Mr. Speaker, we just don't want to look because it is so awful. Maybe it's challenging our very premises, our very understanding of what this choice for abortion really leads to. But we have to look, and we have to recognize how deeply we are inflicting wounds upon our very selves.

Mr. Speaker, women deserve better. Our Nation can do better. Why not help young women like Shayquana and let the healing begin?

□ 1450

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues to continue to shine the light on the human rights abuses that are the subject of the Kermit Gosnell trial in Philadelphia.

Dr. Gosnell's practice included a procedure he called "snipping." This appalling procedure ended the lives of some of the youngest members of the human family.

A culture of life needs to reject the philosophy that gives rise to such horror, and no organization that would support the ending of such young lives should receive one dime of Federal funding.

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

(Mr. ROKITA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the deeply disturbing case of Dr. Kermit Gosnell, who is currently charged with four counts of first-degree murder and one count of third-degree murder related to the botched abor-

tions at a Pennsylvania clinic. Former employees have testified that he delivered babies and then killed them by snipping their spinal cords with scissors. One staffer described this procedure as "literally a beheading."

Mr. Speaker, life is precious; therefore, every abortion is a tragedy. But this case exposes the full horror of abortion carried to its logical end. As columnist Kirsten Powers recently wrote, the difference between late-term abortion in the womb and the murder of a newborn infant is simply "merely a matter of geography."

In response to a nearly total lack of coverage by mainstream media, myself and many Members who stand today here, including MARSHA BLACKBURN, STEVE SCALISE, and a whole cadre of folks that are speaking today, wrote to the heads of the major TV networks demanding that they cover this and other high-profile abortion controversies.

Thankfully, this case has begun to receive the attention it deserves, and Americans are discovering that this is not about pro-choice versus pro-life, but about basic human rights.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT ACT

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. This week, I am introducing commonsense legislation to encourage public and private partnerships to help meet the needs of New Hampshire students and businesses. The Workforce Development Investment Act would give tax incentives to firms that partner with educators to improve workforce development and job training for students.

Training a highly skilled, 21st century workforce is critical for growing our economy, creating jobs, and strengthening the middle class. When we invest in our workforce, more employers will invest in the United States; and in the Granite State, our students will be more competitive in the job market, and our businesses will be more successful in the global economy.

Right now, there are companies like WH Bagshaw in Nashua, New Hampshire, that are looking to hire but struggling to find workers with the right skills for the job. My bill would help close this skills gap by providing incentives for businesses to team up with educators to teach our students the skills they need to compete and succeed.

This is a commonsense proposal, and I urge your support.

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, it's difficult for me to even speak about

this subject today. I'm a woman who's been privileged to give birth to 5 children, and I've also taken 23 children into my home as foster children. It's very hard for me to imagine, Mr. Speaker, that a doctor in this country, a doctor who took an oath to do no harm, would, in fact, kill a woman at his abortion clinic and he would sever the heads of four babies that were born alive—and potentially others—and commit one gruesome act after another.

Shamelessly, the mainstream media has all but gone silent and failed to cover this horrific violence against women.

No one, Democrat or Republican, believes in violence against women. We abhor it. But there's nothing that even comes close to what's happened in this abortion clinic in Pennsylvania. The officials in Pennsylvania and the State Department of Health, unfortunately—it appears, willfully—ignored this heinous crime. It also appears that this has been ignored now across our Nation.

Well, we won't ignore it. And I thank God for the men who stood up here today to stand for women and against violence against women. I lend my voice and my support to that effort as well.

VA CLAIMS, OPERATIONS, AND RECORDS EFFICIENCY ACT

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduced a bipartisan piece of legislation to help tackle the substantial backlog of veterans' claims. My bill is called the VA Claims, Operations, and Records Efficiency Act, or CORE. It directs the Department of Defense to enact an efficient electronic transfer of veterans' records instead of the outdated paperwork process that is currently being used.

The average veteran waits more than 250 days for a decision on a claim. About 175 days of that time is the VA waiting for the DOD to send the complete records. In Arizona's District One, one of my veterans' caseworkers is helping several vets who waited more than 2 years. This wait time is simply unacceptable. Federal agencies must leave paperwork in the past and adopt an efficient electronic approach.

I thank my colleague, Chairman COFFMAN, for cosponsoring this bill. Helping our veterans isn't a partisan issue; it's a national responsibility. Let's end the backlog so we can keep the promises we've made to our veterans.

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

(Mr. BENTIVOLIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. I am glad our country is having a conversation about gun violence. It's about the children, we say. I am glad our country is discussing immigration reform. It's about the children, we say. I am glad we are finally having a conversation about our trillion-dollar deficit. It's about the children, we say. Every day, this Chamber debates and votes on legislation, all in the name of the children, we say.

Well, Baby A was a child. He had 10 fingers and 10 toes and he moved. He moved before those scissors were jabbed in the back of his head and he moved in reaction to the pain he felt.

Baby B had 10 fingers and 10 toes. He kicked in his mother's womb. His mother was a child herself—scared, frightened, looking for an adult to help her.

Dr. Gosnell, his staff, the health department, and even national pro-choice organizations were in no way concerned with these women, their health or well-being. Instead, these entities either turned a blind eye or they were more devoted to a political ideology rather than the sounds of babies drowning in toilets.

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

(Mr. LANKFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANKFORD. In Philadelphia, an abortion clinic murder trial is about to go to the jury next week for the death of four children and one adult. The one adult was killed by an overdose of drugs that she was given during the abortion procedure. The four children represent many children that were delivered completely, and then their spinal cord was cut while they were outside the womb.

The defense has said those children would have died anyway. They were small. The drugs they had been given would have killed them already in the surgical destruction that happened during the actual abortion procedure. So those children don't matter. They shouldn't count as a murder. They wouldn't have lived anyway.

I'm going to ask two questions. One is: What is the difference of 3 feet between delivering a child and snapping their spinal cord or killing them in the womb? And the second is: Why would we do this to children in the first place?

I'd love for you to meet Olivia. She goes to high school with my daughter. She was born in 1996 at 1 pound, 2 ounces, just over 20 weeks at delivery, the very same as these children that were killed that day and many days in that Philadelphia abortion clinic.

We have got to stand for life. We cannot be a Nation that does this to our children.

□ 1500

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise awareness about the trial that's going on in Philadelphia.

Dr. Kermit Gosnell is on trial right now for the murder of at least four babies who were born alive as a result of a botched abortion, as well as a mother who was murdered during the process of an abortion at the hands of Dr. Gosnell.

Now, just a few days ago, more than 70 Members of Congress sent a letter to the heads of the three major networks asking why they're not giving fair coverage to this trial. I think we all recognize if Dr. Gosnell used an AK-47 instead of a scalpel, the media coverage would rival a natural disaster. Yet barely a peep comes from the mainstream media because it happened to be an abortion doctor who was actually performing abortions.

This is one of those untold stories in our country that we all need to stand up for, Mr. Speaker. That's why we're here today. We're going to continue to stand up for the lives of the unborn and for their rights.

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

(Mr. GOSAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, today, I join my colleagues to express my disgust and anger at the barbaric actions of Dr. Kermit Gosnell.

The facts of this case are gut-wrenching. As a father, a Catholic, and a health care provider, I believe in protecting the unborn.

This case isn't only about upholding the sanctity of life, but it is also about patient care and safety. Further, it shows many in the mainstream media will turn a blind eye to the murder of infants if it suits their political agenda.

Regardless of one's abortion position, no one can defend Gosnell's practices, yet his criminal case proceeds without the national outcry for justice that we have heard on other murder cases. Do we value the lives of infants or the health care of mothers who endured such horrific medical care?

The lack of oversight allowing Dr. Gosnell to operate under horrific conditions, perform late-term abortions and murder babies should be scrutinized in the same manner as other serial killers. My hope is our actions today shed light on this case and start a conversation to be sure that this never happens again.

THE GOSNELL TRIAL

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)